

REMARKS

Claims 10-27 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been canceled. Claims 3, 6, 7, and 8 were amended. Claims 28-34 were added. Accordingly, claims 3, 6, 7-9 and 28-34 remain pending. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims in this and other related applications.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form, as requested in the Office Action, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 6 is allowable for at least the reasons stated in the Office Action and for the unique combination of elements recited therein. Claims 3 and 7-9 each depend from claim 6 and are also allowable.

Similarly, new independent claim 28 recites a mass analysis device comprising, *inter alia*, "a second ion source. . . comprising. . . a shield electrode which is formed of a conductive metal material to surround said corona discharge electrode and a metal mesh covering an opening for emitting the produced ions." As recognized in the Office Action, the prior art "does not provide a suitable teaching towards. . . a shield electrode and an opening covered in metal mesh." Office Action, at 5. For at least these reasons, and for the unique combination of elements recited therein, claim 28 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 29-34 each depend from claim 28 and contain all of the limitations recited therein. For at least these reasons, claims 29-34 are also allowable.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants submit that each pending claim is allowable. Favorable action on the application is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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